

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Dakota [Mr. POMEROY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. POMEROY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. TOWNS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. TOWNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MINK of Hawaii addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DUNCAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

WE ARE NOT ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I just came to the floor because my calendar says it is March 6.

My whole problem is I cannot figure out when we are going to get our work done.

It seems to me, if it is March 6, that means we are almost halfway through this fiscal year, we still have four bills that have not been signed, we still have the debt ceiling issue, we still have the fact that we can shut Government down at any moment, and what we are hearing from the primaries out there, where the people are really being able to speak, is they think we have missed the whole boat, that this issue is really about the average American family and how they keep the middle-class American working standard.

So, Mr. Speaker, let us talk about that, what that is and how we have not done anything for that.

Mr. Speaker, the American people feel we have really missed the boat, we have missed the core challenge, and that is helping America's working fam-

ilies, the ones who work, the ones who get up every morning, the ones who are struggling like mad, the ones who feel like one of those hamsters in a wheel where they run faster and faster every year, their tongues are hanging out, and yet they feel they do not get out of the bottom of that wheel.

Now one of the things that we have not done that would help, we are going to see a lot of photo ops with these people, but these people really do not care about photo ops. They really care about some policy that would help them. Let us start with the minimum wage.

The minimum wage is the lowest it has been in 40 years. When I went to college, I was able to work my way through college. College tuition has gone way, way up, and the minimum wage has stayed way down here. It is almost impossible for a young person today to work their way through college and finish before they are 80 years old. So the minimum wage is terribly important to try and help people to be able to support themselves better.

Let us look at medical care. Medical care is very critical. We have got the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill moving in the Senate, but we do not see it moving over here. I am the proud cosponsor. I hope many more people become cosponsors. But that, too, helps working families to try and hold that pillar of medical care underneath them and their families as they feel it crumbling.

There is another whole area; that is student loans. People would like to see that pillar be held up because everyone knows their young folks are only going to go as far as their education takes them, and getting an education is terribly costly, especially in this day and age. So doing anything to the student loans is very unfair, and it makes it topple.

When you look at Medicare and Medicaid, those are two other areas that really harm the average working family because especially if the average working family has a child that is handicapped or whatever, they need to be depending on Medicaid to make up the difference. They may have elderly parents who desperately need Medicare, and without Medicare and Medicaid then the families got to dig deeper in their pockets to make this all work.

You know, part of the stress on these young families and part of their frustrations with this body is rather than having pictures they would like a minimum wage increase, they would like an insurance bill, they would like the guarantee that their pensions are not going to be played with. Several times this year we have seen bills saying that corporations could do with their pensions what Orange County, CA, did with their funds. That does not make you sleep very well at night. They want to be sure education is guaranteed in the future, and they want to know there is a future.

I think we really need to roll up our shirtsleeves and get to work here. I

mean here we are. Yesterday we were out early; here we are today, we are out early. I do not know what we are doing. We have not gotten the budget done, we have not gotten our work done, and we are not addressing the issues that voters all over America, in State after State as these primaries roll through, say are front and center. They are saying please listen to us. We are the ones that support the Government; why does the Government not support the policies we want?

You know we are going to lose their support of the Government. That is one of the things that feeds the cynicism so much. We will lose their support of the Government if we are not listening to them and providing those policies.

So I just want to say I am sure where everybody lives there will soon be a photo op near them with politicians running around trying to have pictures taken with little kids, with working people, in front of a hospital deploring hospital costs, whatever. But when you see that photo op, think about how does it translate into policy, how does that person vote, what do they cosponsor? That is the reality. The picture is not the reality, the record is the reality, and I think working men and women are going to be looking for those records, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. TIAHRT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

□ 1530

THE GOVERNMENTS OF SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, JAPAN, AND EUROPE OWE THE UNITED STATES A RESPONSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. GEJDENSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, the tragedies in Israel over the last several weeks are something that all of us have to pay close attention to. I am proud that the American Government and President Clinton have led the effort to try to build a real and lasting peace in the Middle East. But many of our friends in countries who have benefited from America's generosity and America's courage have not only not helped us in this struggle for peace, but have actually supported the opponents of peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, today I will be sending letters to the Governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to ask them what they are doing to try to stop the attacks on innocent Israeli civilians by Hamas. I will be sending the same letter, virtually, to the Governments of France, England, Germany, and Japan. Their continuing trade with Iran, dealing with Iran as if it was one of the civilized nations of the world, continues